operated by SIDBI has become operational with effect from 1st April, 2004. The maximum rate of interest on loans to be provided from the Fund will be not more than 2% below the Prime Lending Rate of SIDBI, *i.e.* not exceeding 9.5% at present.

(c) Ministry of SSI presently administers two separate policies, namely: (i) Policy for reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in SSI sector and (ii) Purchase & Price Preference Policy. The objectives and considerations behind the two policies are quite different.

Therefore, dereservation of 85 items is not likely to have any direct impact on benefits of the Price Purchase Preference Policy for SSI manufacturers of these items.

Definition of Small Scale Industries

†2534. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for changing the definition of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Small Scale Industries (SSIs) is defined on the basis of limit in investment in plant and machinery of a unit, which is at present Rs. 100 lakhs, except for a few notified items where the investment limit in plant and machinery for SSI unit is Rs. 500 lakhs. The Government has received several suggestions for revising the limit of investment in plant and machinery. However, a final view has not been taken as yet in this regard.

Export control for satellite systems

2535. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. licensing divisions for ISRO and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

its units increased by 75 per cent in the past 18 months with the approval rate, now running at approximately 93 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the issue of export controls, specifically those governing satellite systems and components would continue to be devil the bidding space partnership between U.S.A and India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Out of the 745 orders placed for U.S. items in the past 16 months, 477 have been obtained, 17 have been denied license by the U.S. and 251 are pending.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Negotiations are being carried out at different levels between the two countries in order to remove the existing restrictions.

Jyoti Gram Yojana

2536. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal for the inclusion of 'Jyoti Gram Yojana' as eligible for funding under MPLADS funds; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government of Gujarat sought clarification on the contribution from Members of Parliament from their MPLADS funds in the Jyoti Gram Yojana.

(b) The objective of the Jyoti Gram Yojana is to create basic infrastructure facilities for 24 hours power supply to villages. Item No. 19 in the Appendix 1 of the Guidelines of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme permits provision of civic amenities like electricity